

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

SUBJECT: Castro's "Five Points" Including Demand We Leave Guantanamo

QUESTION: Are we prepared to discuss with the Soviets, or the Cubans, Castro's so-called "five points", particularly the surrender of Guantanamo and the lifting of our trade embargo against Cuba?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

After your exchanges with Premier Khrushchev, Castro on October 28 stated that the pledge against invasion of Cuba will not exist without eliminating the naval quarantine and the adoption of, among others, the following measures:

1. The end of the economic blockade and all measures of commercial and economic pressure exercised against Cuba by the United States...
2. The end of all subversive activities, dropping and landing of arms and explosives...organization of mercenary invasions, infiltration of spies...
3. The end of pirate attacks carried out from bases in the U.S. and Puerto Rico
4. The end of all violations of air and naval space by U.S. military aircraft and ships
5. Withdrawal from the naval base at Guantanamo and the return of this Cuban territory occupied by the United States.

To date the Government has taken the position that we are dealing with the Soviets, not Castro, and our immediate goal has been to obtain compliance on the part of the U.S.S.R. with the agreement by Premier Khrushchev to remove what you had defined as offensive weapons. Since this has essentially been a negotiation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and, since we do not want to build up Castro, we have publicly ignored his five points except to state that we would not leave Guantanamo.

The United States captured Guantanamo Bay from the Spaniards in 1898 in the war in which we aided Cuba to obtain its independence. In 1903 the newly formed Cuban Republic leased the bay and about 20 thousand acres of surrounding land to the U.S. as a naval base. In 1934 a new treaty was negotiated which reaffirmed the 1903 agreement, gave the U.S. a perpetual lease, and provided that the treaty could be abrogated only by agreement by both parties or if the U.S. abandoned the site. The U.S. is to pay \$2,000 in gold coin annually (now equivalent to about \$3,400). Castro since 1960

has not

has not accepted cash payment.

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

Mr. Castro's five points have not received serious consideration during our discussions with the Soviet Union. Our decisions have, and, so far as U.S. side is concerned, will continue to be confined to implementation of the agreements contained in the exchange of letters of October 27 and 28. Castro's five points were not mentioned in this exchange. With specific regard to Guantanamo, this Government has always made it clear that the United States maintains its naval base at Guantanamo under specific and valid treaty rights. We intend to continue our presence there.